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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

13 May 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM :

Chairman, National Intelligence Council

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SUBJECT : Choice of Carolyn Stettner (ACDA) as Drafter of  
SNIE 11-17-83

1. You have raised a question about the appropriateness of our choice of a person from a non-intelligence agency--ACDA--to be the principal drafter on a national estimate; an estimate, moreover, that has arms control policy implications. Our reasons are as follows:

- o The drafter-designate, Carolyn Stettner is well qualified to do the job--she has substantial technical expertise in the chemical-biological area; she was a highly effective performer on the State Department 1982 Round-the-World briefing team on the "Yellow Rain" issue, and she has written extensively and incisively on Soviet arms control propaganda policy. Hans Heymann tell me she is bright, objective, tough-minded and a good writer and that if they had had any doubts about the suitability of this drafter, they would not have initiated the venture.
- o Stettner, though not formally a member of the intelligence community, is more closely associated with that community than any other member of ACDA--she is acting chief of the Verification Division of ACDA's Bureau of Verification and Intelligence, she is the ACDA representative on the STIC, and she is a member and sub-group chairman of the DCI's Working Group on CW/Toxin Use which operates under NIC auspices. urging that Stettner accepted the principal drafter assignment. The members of the Working Group--doubling as the NFIB reps for the estimate--unanimously concurred in that choice.

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- o Stettner's drafting work on the SNIE will include contributions from many parts of the community and will be performed under NIO supervision and control, not under ACDA's. The estimate will be a NIC, not an ACDA product. As in all national estimates, it is the NIO's responsibility to assure that parochial agency positions are not permitted to distort our estimative judgments.

2. If there is one thing that the NIO system, which has been in existence for almost ten years now, was designed to accomplish, it is precisely the detection and filtering out of parochial agency bias in estimates, without suppressing genuine substantive dissent.



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